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A devastating galactic war was waged between the Kree Empire, ruled by Black Bolt and the Inhuman royal family, and the Shi'Ar Imperium, controlled by the despotic mutant Vulcan.

Vulcan saw an opportunity to annex the Kree Empire while it was in a state of upheaval. The mad emperor unleashed his Imperial Guard in a callous first strike, sending his war fleets to invade Kree space.

Reeling from this savage attack, the Inhumans realized they had to overcome the Shi'Ar before any of their own schemes of destiny could be achieved.

The tides of war shifted dramatically when a rescue mission to save Lilandra, the exiled Shi'Ar empress, ended with Gladiator, praetor of the Imperial Guard, betraying his allegiances to Vulcan. This brave effort, however, ended tragically with Lilandra's assassination.

This forced Black Bolt to enact his ultimate contingency plan, the T-Bomb. Powered by his voice, the device was designed to spread a shockwave of Terrigen, the transmuting property that gives the Inhumans their powers, throughout the galaxy. The intended result of the weapon: the physical mutation of all races and the end of genetic divisions.

The Shi'Ar emperor ambushed Black Bolt on the T-Bomb, and after the bomb was rendered inert, the Inhuman king was forced to detonate the missile in an effort to kill Vulcan. The resulting explosion tore a hole in the fabric of time and space.

Through their leader's sacrifice, the Inhumans have claimed victory over the Shi'Ar. The war is over... and one empire must find a new leader to rule in Vulcan's absence.

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WAR OF KINGS: WHO WILL RULE? No. 1, November, 2009. Published as a One-Shot by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. © 2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and $3.99 per copy in the U.S. and $5.99 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand. Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in the USA.** ALAN FINE, EVP - Office Of The Chief Executive Marvel Entertainment, Inc. & CMO Marvel Characters B.V.; DAN BUCKLEY, Chief Executive Officer and Publisher - Print, Animation & Digital Media; JIM SOKOLOWSKI, Chief Operating Officer; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Talent Management; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, VP Merchandising & Communications; JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIEL, Director of Publishing & Editorial Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager; ALEX MORALES, Publishing Operations Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or in Marvel.com, please contact Niteh Dare, Advertising Director, at ndare@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

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I GAZE UPON THE FAULT, A VAST PUNCTURE WOUND IN TIME AND SPACE.
IT IS SEVEN PARSECS ACROSS, SPLITTING THE BORDER BETWEEN THE KREE STELLAR EMPIRE AND THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM.
IT IS AN UNREGULATED POINT OF ENTRY INTO OUR UNIVERSE FOR BEINGS FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS. WHO KNOWS WHAT THREATS IT CONTAINS?
THE SHI'AR BLAME THE INHUMAN KING BLACK BOLT, NATURALLY. THE DETONATION OF HIS TERRIGEN BOMB TRIGGERED THE FAULT.
BUT HIS WEAPON WAS ONLY LAUNCHED IN THE PROSECUTION OF A WAR THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEGUN IF THE SHI'AR MAJESTOR VULCAN HADN'T ORDERED IT.
WAR DID THIS. WITH OUR VIOLENCE WE HAVE INJURED THE VERY MATTER OF THE STARS.
AND IT HAS COST US THE LIVES OF OUR KINGS. BLACK BOLT AND VULCAN ARE GONE.

THIS IS THE MOST RECENT INTELFEED MAPPING WE'VE OBTAINED?
YES, PRAETOR.
IT'S COMING FROM THE SEARCH SHIPS?
IT'S COLLATED FROM ALL THE VESSELS DIVERTED INTO THE FAULT ZONE TO SEE IF EITHER OUR MAJESTOR OR THE INHUMAN KING SURVIVED, PRAETOR.
THANK YOU. END IMMERSIVE HOLOPLAY.
CHANDILAR, THE ISHTAR HOMEWORLD.
THE ROYAL AERIE.
WHAT'S NEXT?
THE CRIMINAL STARJAMMER HAVOK AWAITS YOU IN THE ANTEROOM, PRAETOR.
HE'S NO CRIMINAL, CONSUL ARAKI, AND I'M NO PRAETOR. PLEASE DON'T OBLIGE ME TO REMIND YOU AGAIN.
GLADIATOR WILL SUFFICE.
I APOLOGIZE ONCE MORE, PRAE-- GLADIATOR.
I CONFESS I AM SIMPLY EAGER TO PROVE MY WORTH TO THE ADMINISTRATION.
DON'T TRY SO HARD.
SIR, THE ARAKI SEQUENCE HAS DELIBERATELY CONSTITUTED ITS LATEST ITERATION AS A FEMALE IN ORDER TO DRAW A LINE UNDER THE REGRETTABLE ACTIONS OF MY PREDECESSOR.
MY SEQUENCE...MY FAMILY...WISHES TO ATONE FOR CHANCELLOR ARAKI'S SINS.
WHAT YOU MEAN IS THEY MADE YOU A WOMAN THIS TIME SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO LOOK AT A YOUNG VERSION OF THAT TREACHEROUS OLD MONSTER?
YES.
SERVE WELL AND SPEAK PLAINLY, ARAKI, AND YOUR FAMILY WILL EARN THE ABSOLUTION THEY CRAVE.
ADDITIONALLY, IT MAY HELP TO BEAR IN MIND WHAT I DID TO THE CHANCELLOR FOR HIS TREACHERY.
HE NO LONGER HAS A FACE TO SNEER AT ME WITH.
Y-YES, GLADIATOR.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
HELL, I WAS ENJOYING THE NOVELTY.
THE STARJAMMERS IN THE SHI'AR IMPERIAL PALACE AND NO SIRENS GOING OFF?
RACHEL HAS FINISHED THE PSI-SCULPT, KALLARK.
THIS IS EVERY DETAIL I COULD RECOVER THROUGH DEEP TELEPATHIC WORK.
WE DON'T KNOW HIS NAME, BUT THIS IS THE ASSASSIN. THIS IS THE MAN WHO KILLED LILANDRA.
I'LL HAVE THIS POSTED THROUGHOUT SHI'AR TERRITORY AS A MEME ADVISORY.
ANYONE WHO SEES THIS ANIMAL WILL INSTANTLY KNOW HIS CRIME.
KALLARK, WE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU--
I'M SORRY, HAVOK, BUT I'M TIRED AND THE STATE FUNERAL IS DEMANDING MY FULL ATTENTION.
IT'S ABOUT THE SUCCESSION. WE--
LATER. WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER.
I KNOW WHAT THEY WANT TO SAY, AND I KNOW THEY MEAN WELL. OTHERS HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED THE SUCCESSION.
IT WILL TAKE A STRONG PERSON TO LEAD THE SHI'AR THROUGH THIS CALAMITOUS TIME, AND THAT PERSON WON'T BE ME.
THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM IS ON ITS KNEES.
I HAVE MANAGED TO CREATE A SAFE ZONE AROUND THE AERIE TO ALLOW THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATION TO OPERATE, BUT CHANDILAR AS A WHOLE IS BURNING.
CIVIL WAR RAGES ACROSS THE HOMEWORLD AND ALL THE WORLDS OF THE IMPERIUM.
PRESUMING THERE'S STILL AN IMPERIUM AT ALL.

WE LOST THE WAR. WE SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY TO THE KREE.
THEIR INHUMAN MONARCHY MAY SIMPLY CHOOSE TO DISMANTLE THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM.
TO TAKE IT APART LIKE AN OLD STARSHIP IN A BREAKER'S YARD. TO PARTITION IT FOR EASE OF GOVERNANCE...
NEVERTHELESS, SURRENDER WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE. THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM HAD LOST ITS SOUL IN THE BLOODSHED OF VULCAN'S REIGN. DRASTIC THOUGH SURRENDER MAY BE, WE NEEDED JUST SUCH AN INTERVENTION TO BRING US TO OUR SENSES. TO HELP US SURVIVE.
UHM, GLADIATOR?
YES, CONSUL ARAKI?
SIGNAL FROM THE ORBITAL FORTS, SIR. THE INHUMAN MISSION HAS BEEN SIGHTED. THEY WILL BE HERE BY DAWN.
THANK YOU, ARAKI.
IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE ISSUE OF SUCCESSION BE DISCUSSED.
NOT NOW.
YES. NOW.
THE ISSUE IS MURKY AT BEST. THE FILIAL GENITURE OF THE KEY NOBLE SEQUENCES HAVE BECOME SO ENTANGLED IN THE LAST FEW DECADES--
--ANY DECLARATION OF BLOOD INHERITANCE WOULD SIMPLY AGGRAVATE THE CIVIL WAR.
NEXT, PUTTING ASIDE THE FACT THAT THE BULK OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD, SWORN DEFENDERS OF THE IMPERIUM, QUESTION THE LEGALITY OF KA'ARDUM'S SURRENDER...
...THE GUARD AND MANY NOBLE FACTIONS HAVE INSISTED THAT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PHYSICAL PROOF OF VULCAN'S DEATH CAN BE PRODUCED, THE ISSUE OF SUCCESSION IS MOOT ANYWAY.
IF THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM IS GOING TO SURVIVE, PRAETOR, THEN IT NEEDS A FIGUREHEAD. SOMEONE POPULAR AND STRONG. SOMEONE CHARISMATIC.
DO YOU SEE WHERE I'M GOING WITH THIS, PRAETOR?
I TOLD YOU, ARAKI.
I'M NOT YOUR PRAETOR.
AND I'M CERTAINLY NOT YOUR MAJESTOR.

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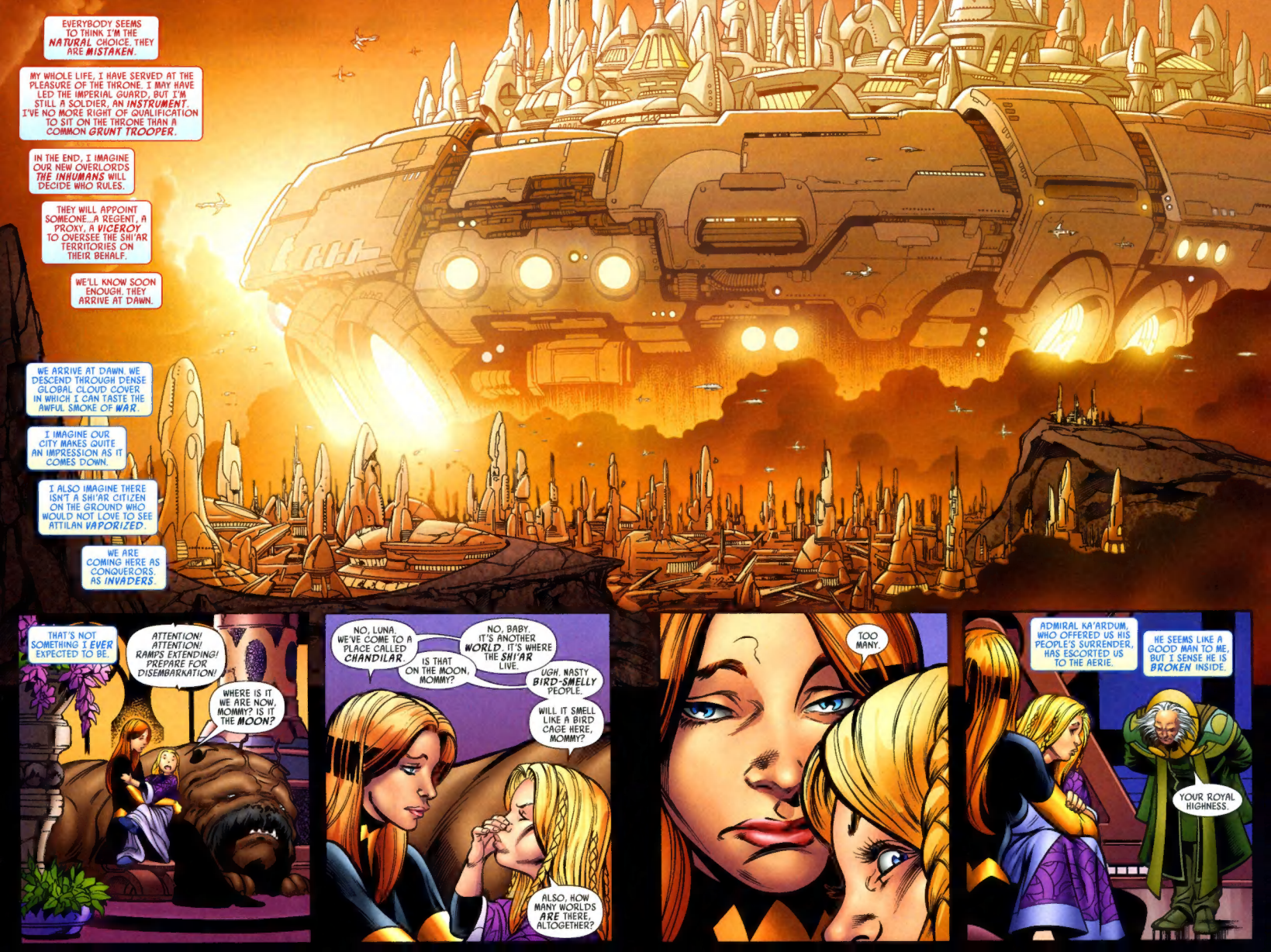
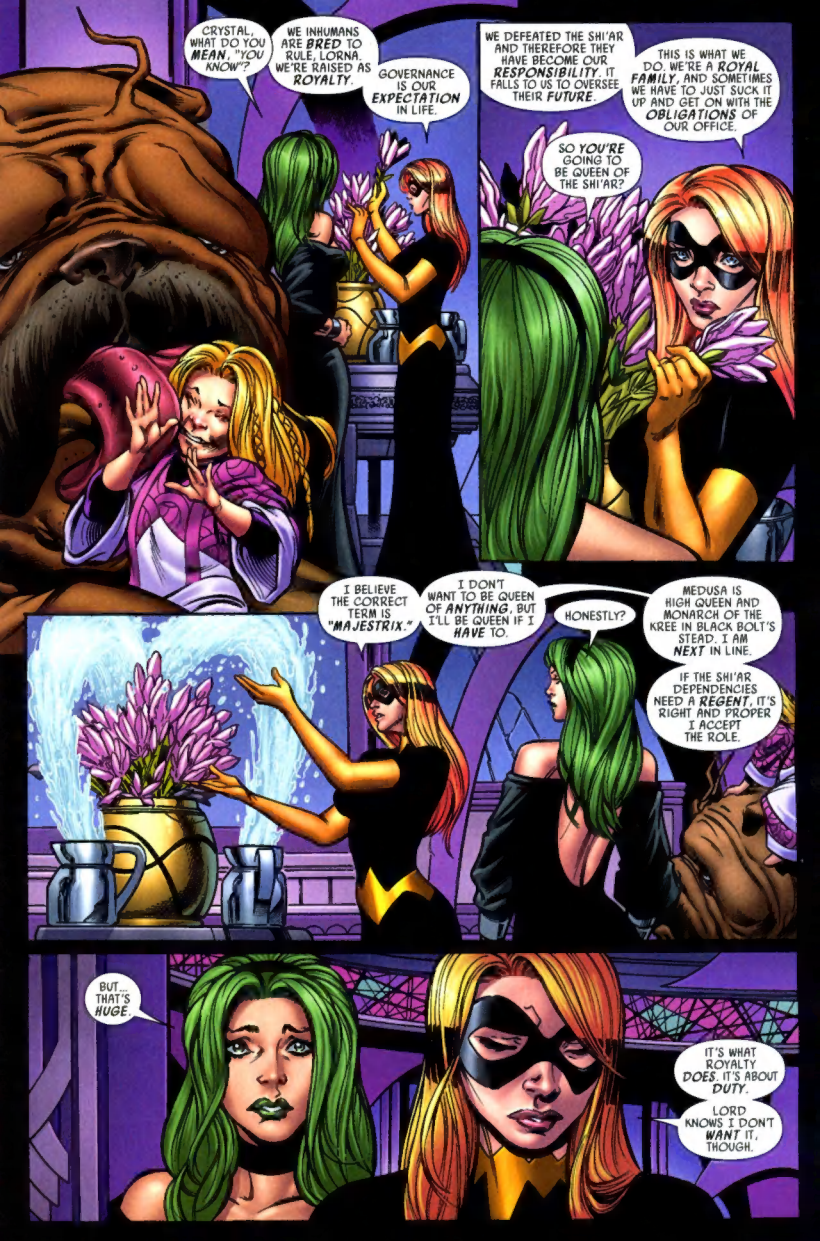

EVERYBODY SEEMS TO THINK I'M THE NATURAL CHOICE. THEY ARE MISTAKEN.
MY WHOLE LIFE, I HAVE SERVED AT THE PLEASURE OF THE THRONE. I MAY HAVE LED THE IMPERIAL GUARD, BUT I'M STILL A SOLDIER, AN INSTRUMENT. I'VE NO MORE RIGHT OF QUALIFICATION TO SIT ON THE THRONE THAN A COMMON GRUNT TROOPER.
IN THE END, I IMAGINE OUR NEW OVERLORDS THE INHUMANS WILL DECIDE WHO RULES.
THEY WILL APPOINT SOMEONE...A REGENT, A PROXY, A VICEROY TO OVERSEE THE SHI'AR TERRITORIES ON THEIR BEHALF.
WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH. THEY ARRIVE AT DAWN.
WE ARRIVE AT DAWN. WE DESCEND THROUGH DENSE GLOBAL CLOUD COVER IN WHICH I CAN TASTE THE AWFUL SMOKE OF WAR.
I IMAGINE OUR CITY MAKES QUITE AN IMPRESSION AS IT COMES DOWN.
I ALSO IMAGINE THERE ISN'T A SHI'AR CITIZEN ON THE GROUND WHO WOULD NOT LOVE TO SEE ATTILAN VAPORIZED.
WE ARE COMING HERE AS CONQUERORS. AS INVADERS.
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I EVER EXPECTED TO BE.
ATTENTION! ATTENTION! RAMPS EXTENDING! PREPARE FOR DISEMBARKATION!
WHERE IS IT WE ARE NOW, MOMMY? IS IT THE MOON?
NO, LUNA. WE'VE COME TO A PLACE CALLED CHANDILAR.
IS THAT ON THE MOON, MOMMY?
NO, BABY. IT'S ANOTHER WORLD. IT'S WHERE THE SHI'AR LIVE.
UGH. NASTY BIRD-SMELLY PEOPLE.
WILL IT SMELL LIKE A BIRD CAGE HERE, MOMMY?
ALSO, HOW MANY WORLDS ARE THERE, ALTOGETHER?
TOO MANY.
ADMIRAL KA'ARDUM, WHO OFFERED US HIS PEOPLE'S SURRENDER, HAS ESCORTED US TO THE AERIE.
HE SEEMS LIKE A GOOD MAN TO ME, BUT I SENSE HE IS BROKEN INSIDE.
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS.

WITH BLACK BOLT GONE, MEDUSA IS QUEEN.
MY SISTER IS IN MOURNING. SHE HASN'T SPOKEN, AND THAT IRONY IS NOT LOST ON ANY OF US.
EVERYONE HOPES SHE WILL FIND A WAY TO SECURE GENUINE PEACE BETWEEN THE SHI'AR AND KREE WORLDS.
GORGON, CAN I BE KING?
NO, MAXIMUS.
OH, LET ME! I'D BE GREAT!
NO.
BUT I WANT TO BE KING OF SOMETHING!
YOUR PEOPLE NEED A FIRM HAND ON THE TILLER NOW, KA'ARDUM.
THIS I KNOW, ACCUSER.
YOU HAVE NERAMANI BLOOD IN YOU. HAVE YOU THOUGHT--?
ME? OH, NO. NOT NOW. NOT ANYMORE.
HALF THE IMPERIUM WOULD INSTANTLY RISE UP AGAINST ME. MY BLOODLINE HAS STAINED THE SHI'AR TOO DEEPLY.
I KNOW HOW THAT SONG GOES, ADMIRAL. I RULED THE KREE, OUT OF NECESSITY.
I WOULD NOT TAKE THE BURDEN BACK.
I ALREADY KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE ME.


CRYSTAL, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YOU KNOW"?
WE INHUMANS ARE BRED TO RULE, LORNA. WE'RE RAISED AS ROYALTY.
GOVERNANCE IS OUR EXPECTATION IN LIFE.
WE DEFEATED THE SHI'AR AND THEREFORE THEY HAVE BECOME OUR RESPONSIBILITY. IT FALLS TO US TO OVERSEE THEIR FUTURE.
THIS IS WHAT WE DO. WE'RE A ROYAL FAMILY, AND SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO JUST SUCK IT UP AND GET ON WITH THE OBLIGATIONS OF OUR OFFICE.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE QUEEN OF THE SHI'AR?
I BELIEVE THE CORRECT TERM IS "MAJESTRIX."
I DON'T WANT TO BE QUEEN OF ANYTHING, BUT I'LL BE QUEEN IF I HAVE TO.
HONESTLY?
MEDUSA IS HIGH QUEEN AND MONARCH OF THE KREE IN BLACK BOLT'S STEAD. I AM NEXT IN LINE.
IF THE SHI'AR DEPENDENCIES NEED A REGENT, IT'S RIGHT AND PROPER I ACCEPT THE ROLE.
BUT... THAT'S HUGE.
IT'S WHAT ROYALTY DOES. IT'S ABOUT DUTY.
LORD KNOWS I DON'T WANT IT, THOUGH.

EXPLAIN?
I HAVE BECOME VERY AFFECTED BY THE PLIGHT OF THE KREE. I FEEL A GREAT DEDICATION TO THEIR CAUSE...
...A CAUSE I CANNOT PURSUE IF I AM LIGHT YEARS AWAY RULING THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM.
SO THIS BOND WITH THE KREE? IS IT DUE IN PART TO YOUR DASHING YOUNG HUSBAND?
I WISH YOU WOULD NOT [redacted] SO MOCKING OF LORD RONAN.
LORD RONAN. HUH? IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL HIM IN BED?
WE DO NOT SHARE A BED!
WELL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD, EH?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUMP-START THE KREE GENETIC LINE THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
JEEZ, CRYS! ARE YOU BLUSHING? IT WAS JUST A JOKE.
YOU DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE FEELINGS FOR RONAN..
...DO YOU?

I GET HER OFF THE TOPIC BY TURNING THE CONVERSATION BACK TO THE QUESTION OF THE SHI'AR SUCCESSION.
THAT'S WHEN SHE TELLS ME ABOUT KALLARK.
THE SUBURBS OF ZA'TAI, FIFTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE AERIE.
I SPEND THE DAY IN ZA'TAI, ESCORTING RELIEF COLUMNS.
I'M ANXIOUS TO EXTEND THE SAFE ZONE TO INCLUDE THIS AREA, AND THE LOCAL ELDERS TELL ME WHAT THEY NEED IN [illegible] OF FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPORT.
THEN SOMEONE STARTS YELLING.
THERE'S SOMEONE ALIVE UNDER THE K'KYEN PLANT! WE HEARD THEM!
QUICKLY!
ORBITAL BOMBING LEVELLED THE K'KYEN POWER PLANT [illegible] DAYS AGO.
AND SOMEONE'S STILL ALIVE BENEATH THE RUBBLE.
HERE, PRAETOR! HERE!
GET BACK! BACK!
CAN YOU REACH THEM?
YES, PRAETOR!
HURRY! THIS ISN'T STABLE!

HURRY!
NNH!
HURRY!
LET ME HELP.
I CAN BRACE IT.
SHRAAKK
I AM CRYSTAL
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'VE DONE AMAZING WORK HOLDING THINGS TOGETHER.

I'VE SERVED THE THRONE ALL MY LIFE. I'M NOT GOING TO STOP NOW.
YOU COULD DO MORE.
I'M NOT GOING TO GET DRAWN INTO THIS CONVERSATION
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, THEN?
I SERVE THE THRONE IN APPROPRIATE FASHION. I WILL NOT OVERSTEP MY LIMITS.
BUT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF IT.
YOU RENOUNCED SITTING MAJESTOR IN ORDER TO SUPPORT LILANDRA BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED IT WAS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF SHI'AR.
YES, AND THUS I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH AND THIS CIVIL WAR!
THE GUILT WILL LIVE ME, I CAN ASSURE YOU!
SPARE ME YOUR SELF-PITY.
YOU'RE PREPARED TO BREAK ANY RULE IF THE CAUSE IS MORALLY RIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
NOTHING. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE SHI'AR.
NOTHING ABOUT THEIR SPIRIT OR THEIR NEEDS. NOTHING ABOUT THEIR CULTURE OR THEIR POLITICS.
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
SO GOD HELP THEM WHEN THEY PUT ME

THE NEXT DAY.
LILANDRA'S FUNERAL PROCEEDS IN SILENCE. I CAN FEEL THE EXTRAORDINARY WEIGHT OF GRIEF, THE AGONY OF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE, HANGING IN THE AIR.
ALL I CAN THINK IS--
WHY AM I CARRYING THIS?
I EXPLAINED. IT'S SYMBOLIC.
IT TIES INTO THE SHI'AR PHILOSOPHY OF CULTURAL MARRIAGE. OF A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL BETROTHAL OF TWO SPECIES...
SO, REVIEWING... WHY CAN'T I BE KING OF THE SHI'AR?
I'M QUITE CLEVER. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT ABOUT ME.
AND MEDUSA GETS TO RULE THE KREE, APPARENTLY.
SO--
SHUT. UP.
IT IS INTERESTING TO REFLECT THAT VULCAN WAS EARTH-BORN. AND SO WAS BLACK BOLT.
IN THIS REGARD, WE SHARE THE KREE'S PLIGHT. TWO ANCIENT EMPIRES BROUGHT DOWN BY EARTH-BORN USURPERS.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, CONSUL ARAK?
I'M SAYING EARTH HAS GOT A LOT TO ANSWER FOR, ADMIRAL.
KALLARK? PLEASE LET US TALK TO YOU ABO--
LEAVE IT, LORNA. HE'S JUST NOT GOING TO LISTEN.
HE--
UH-OH.

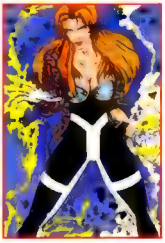
THE IMPERIAL GUARD WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TRAVESTY TO PROCEED ANY FURTHER.
WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY OF THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATION.
WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE LEGALITY OF THE TERMS OF SURRENDER.
THERE IS NO PROOF OF MAJESTOR VULCAN'S DEATH.
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A LEGITIMATE, MANDATED RULE CAN BE ESTABLISHED, THE IMPERIAL GUARD WILL ASSUME CONTROL.
AND THE INHUMANS WILL GO HOME.
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A BAD IDEA
SO THE IMPERIAL GUARD PLAYS ITS HAND AT LAST...
THIS IS LITTLE SHORT OF A MILITARY COUP!
LET ME SMASH SOME SKULLS I SWEAR I'LL BE DISCREET
THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED UNDER MY REGIME.

PROTECT THE QUEEN!
SHI'AR! EAT THE FOCUSED SOUND OF BLACK BOLT'S VOICE!
GROOUGH!
NGHH!
MAJESTY! WE'RE WITH YOU!
MY HUSBAND LAID DOWN HIS LIFE TO DEFEAT YOU, AND STILL YOU DEFY US?!
NGHH!

THIS IS A FUNERAL, FOR RANDAC'S SAKE...
ENOUGH!
SHOW SOME RESPECT!
GODS ABOVE, I WILL NOT SEE THIS IMPERIUM FALL ANY FURTHER OR SPLIT ANY DEEPER.
I WAS PRAETOR ONCE. I WILL NOT WATCH YOU DO THIS.

THIS BELONGS TO YOU.
NO.
SOMETIMES, TO SERVE THE THRONE, YOU'VE GOT TO BE THE THRONE.
DAMN YOU.

SO, KALLARK THE FIRST.
IT WILL DO FOR NOW, I SUPPOSE
A PLACEHOLDER IN THE GREAT PURPOSE.
FLASH
THE GREAT PURPOSE OF TALON AND THE FRATERNITY OF RAPTORS.



Art by Jeff Moore

Crystal, feeling abandoned and ignored himself. With the Four, Crystal opposed Diablo, Dr. Doom, Fasaud and other menaces; meanwhile, Quicksilver returned to Attilan, now free of Maximus' control. The Royal Family ordered Crystal home; she reluctantly agreed, knowing she and Johnny could become a problem.

Pietro eventually recovered from his breakdowns, and he and Crystal agreed to try to reach an understanding. After Quicksilver left Attilan to work with X-Factor, Crystal followed him to Earth, joining the Avengers as they battled Thane Ector's Brethren. With Luna and nanny Marilla in tow, Crystal moved into Avengers Mansion, aiding the team against Proctor's Gatherers and battling the Kree Starforce during the Kree-Shi'ar [redacted]. During this time, Crystal brought an element of sweetness and compassion to the troubled Avengers team, bonding with the emotionally disabled Vision and supporting Captain America's efforts to curb the team's growing ruthlessness. Despite their doubts, Crystal and Quicksilver began meeting on weekends in hopes of rekindling their marriage, but the Black Knight (Dane Whitman) had begun to take a romantic interest in Crystal, something she noticed after he nearly died saving Luna from the Starjammer Raza. This triggered Crystal's own feelings, and she slowly [redacted] to reciprocate Dane's emotions; however, not wanting to complicate her marriage, she remained silent for months, neither acting on nor expressing her feelings to anyone. Fellow Avenger Sersi sought a relationship with Dane, and when in the span of a few days Quicksilver told Crystal that there [redacted] no hope for them and Sersi and Dane were psychically bonded against Dane's will, Crystal and Dane finally shared a late-night kiss. Still, despite her own desires, Crystal [redacted] repeated even that [redacted] kiss.

During her time with the Avengers, Crystal drove off Proctor's Anti-Vision, who coveted her, and then aided the [redacted] against more Kree invaders and Diablo's Masters of Alchemy, but things became more complicated after Luna [redacted] kidnapped first by Fabian Cortez and then by Exodus. The X-Men and Avengers [redacted] together against the villains, and Crystal and Quicksilver fought side-by-side against them until Dane again saved Luna, and then saved Quicksilver in turn. Seeing his wife's affection for Dane, and growing attracted to Crystal again, Pietro rejoined the Avengers. Crystal confessed that she loved both men, but still would proceed [redacted] further with Dane until she knew where their relationship could go; her choice [redacted] made for her when Sersi and Dane left Earth's dimension together. Quicksilver, however, now found himself competing with a memory, and their relationship remained remote despite their both being Avengers.

Crystal aided the earthbound Inhuman Sporr against [redacted] female Earth scientist Terrigene (who kidnapped Sporr to study the nature of Terrigen), and [redacted] after aided her husband when his childhood caretaker, Bova, was poisoned. Quicksilver finally asked Crystal to take him back, but she [redacted] hesitant given their histories. Matters grew [redacted] complex when Luna witnessed Iron Man's murder of Yellowjacket (Rita DeMara), and apparent Space Phantoms claiming to be both [redacted] future Luna and her future brother Tuc began appearing, [redacted] protecting the young Luna during the battles of the Crossing. The possibility of a future [redacted] unsettled Quicksilver, putting [redacted] distance between him and Crystal. While battling the Bloodwraith, Crystal was transported into caverns beneath Attilan, where she discovered that many Alpha Primitives had been exposed to Terrigen Mists there. In retrieving the Bloodwraith's Ebony Blade, Crystal inadvertently fulfilled an Alpha Primitive legend, leading those present to crown Crystal as their rightful ruler; however, she was forced to leave immediately to return to [redacted] Avengers. When the Avengers and Fantastic Four were called upon to sacrifice their [redacted] lives to stop the psionic monster Onslaught shortly thereafter, Crystal nobly complied, leaving her husband to mourn her passing.

Crystal and the others were not truly killed, but instead reborn in [redacted] pocket universe with [redacted] memory of their past lives. There she [redacted] again romanced Johnny Storm, but when they returned to Earth months later, [redacted] life was abandoned. Her reunion with Quicksilver was interrupted by the Black Knight, back on Earth and free of Sersi's influence, who also sought Crystal's love. She asked Dane to wait while she sorted out her feelings, saying her family [redacted] first. Later, in Attilan, Quicksilver [redacted] under Maximus' control again, though this time the influence [redacted] quickly revealed and dispelled. Crystal ended Maximus' plots when the Alpha Primitives again recognized her [redacted] their rightful ruler and abandoned Maximus. After Crystal returned to Earth, Dane again sought her out and he and Pietro began fighting for her affections; angry with both, she returned to Attilan telling them she didn't want either to [redacted] after her, and that [redacted] she wanted to talk to them, she would [redacted] find them. Despite this, Pietro later brought her the romantic letters he had written her while believing her dead; though Crystal was moved, she still preferred to remain alone.

After Quicksilver lost his mutant powers he contacted Crystal for aid, and she reluctantly brought him back to Attilan. By this time, Maximus [redacted] again secretly using his telepathy on Attilan's residents, mentally influencing Pietro yet again as part of his subversive agenda. Pietro asked to undergo Terrigenesis himself, but Black Bolt refused. Quicksilver then [redacted] many of the Terrigen crystals, killing one of the guards, and fled to Earth, taking Luna with him. After this treachery, the Genetics Council approved Crystal's request for [redacted] annulment of their marriage, and Crystal legally changed Luna's patronymic from the Earth-style Maximoff to the Inhuman style Amaquelin, literally "daughter of Quelin," Crystal's own father. On Earth, Quicksilver exposed Luna to small, uncontrolled doses from the Terrigen crystals, and she developed advanced sensory powers. Quicksilver lost most of the crystals to the American government, and, fearing retribution from Attilan and others, sent Luna back to her mother to keep her safe. Crystal participated in Attilan's assault [redacted] the Pentagon to retrieve the Terrigen, and [redacted] among the survivors after the US responded by bombing Attilan. Maximus, with Medusa [redacted] his side, reclaimed leadership of the Inhumans. Crystal and Luna remain unhappily with them, as their people face a very uncertain future.

HEIGHT: 5'6" EYES: Green
WEIGHT: 110 [redacted] HAIR: [redacted]

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Crystal can animate and manipulate the four basic "elemental" substances: earth, air, fire and water, either individually or in various combinations. Due to generations of [redacted], most Inhumans, including Crystal, are slightly superior to humans in [redacted]ength, reaction time, stamina, resistance to injury, speed, and [redacted]tural lifespan. Most Inhumans have a biological vulnerability to human pollutants; Crystal shares this weakness. When necessary, Crystal periodically ingests a serum (developed by Reed Richards of the Fantastic Four) that allows her to tolerate [redacted] temporarily requiring [redacted] ingestion, this later was extended to weekly and then [redacted].

POWER GRID 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

- INTELLIGENCE
- STRENGTH
- SPEED
- DURABILITY
- ENERGY PROJECTION
- FIGHTING SKILLS

Atlantic Ocean to the Himalayas decades earlier, the city was now moved to the atmosphere-bearing Blue Area of the Moon. There, Medusa and Black Bolt were finally married, making Medusa queen of the Inhumans.

When Medusa became pregnant a few months later, Attilan's Genetics Council ruled that the unapproved child was potentially unsafe (due to the mental instability of Black Bolt's brother, Maximus, as well as the sheer magnitude of Black Bolt's powers) and ordered the pregnancy terminated. Medusa refused and fled alone to Earth, living in the desert until her son Ahura was born. As the Council feared, the child possessed great powers, confronting and defeating a being composed of earthly pollutants within days of his birth. Returning to Attilan, Medusa turned Ahura over to the Genetics Council for analysis; but the Council's Chief Justice secretly sought greater power for himself and his inner circle. They traded Ahura to Earth scientists for testing in exchange for human technology; however, Ahura's ship crashed on the way to Earth and he was lost. Medusa sank into a long, deep depression before finally learning Ahura had left the moon, but did not pursue her child for fear of displeasing her husband; her cousins Gorgon and Karnak angrily went after the child themselves. Ahura, who had grown at an unnatural rate, returned to Attilan, where again the Genetic Council demanded custody of him, and again Black Bolt agreed and Medusa reluctantly went along. The Genetics Council's power grab was soon exposed and Medusa finally acted against them, but in the aftermath both the Royal Family and the Genetics Council surrendered their leadership roles. A new, popularly elected Genetics Council was replaced both groups and examined Ahura, who was declared insane and uncontrollable; an anguished Medusa found herself holding her son down so the Inhumans' Pacifiers could suppress his powers. Ahura was placed into isolation as Black Bolt had himself been as a child. Bolt ordered that his son's name never be mentioned in his presence again, and the Royal Family left Attilan.

The Royal Family was forced to return and was in control when Attilan was briefly returned to Earth; during this time Black Bolt asked Medusa to be captured by Maximus as part of a plan on Bolt's part to protect the city and its populace from humanity. This captivity ultimately included having her hair shorn, though she quickly regrew her locks, as well as a number of physical acts that she feared her husband could never forgive her for, despite his having put her into that position himself. Shortly thereafter, the city was literally taken by the extraterrestrial Kree and the Inhumans were enslaved, a servitude that many Inhumans voluntarily chose to remain in rather than live under Bolt's chaotic rule. Medusa, the Royal Family, and the Inhumans who rejected the Kree soon returned to the Blue Area of the Moon, where they began rebuilding Attilan. Medusa subsequently led an effort to bring Inhumans and humans together, beginning with a cultural exchange between the two societies' youth, and she and Black Bolt returned to Kree space and convinced almost all the Inhumans who'd remained there to return home. Along with various heroes and villains, Medusa was also briefly kidnapped by the Stranger (masquerading as the Beyonder) for experimental purposes, but she and they soon fought their way home.

Inhuman/human relations broke down when Quicksilver stole many of the Inhumans' Terrigen crystals and took them to Earth, where the US government then stole them; their refusal to return the crystals led to a cold war between America and Attilan. During this period Black Bolt and Ahura were kidnapped by Skrulls and replaced by impostors. Increasingly lost and isolated in the chaos around her, after Crystal threw her parenting failures in her face, Medusa (possibly under Maximus' mental influence) turned to the imprisoned Maximus for comfort; with her he escaped and freed Ahura (still secretly a Skrull) for her. Soon thereafter, Terrigen-powered human soldiers destroyed Attilan with an explosion as powerful it could be seen from Earth with the naked eye. In the aftermath, Maximus reclaimed control of Attilan and began its reconstruction, arming the city for all-out war with Earth, with Medusa and Ahura at his side.

When the Skrull Black Bolt impostor was exposed elsewhere, Iron Man (Tony Stark) returned his body to Medusa, who angrily demanded of Attilan's Council that they support her in attacking the Skrulls. After they declined, Maximus took the opportunity to claim sole control of the Inhumans. When Skrulls invaded Attilan soon thereafter and the false Ahura was exposed as well, Medusa's torture of their warriors failed to determine her husband and son's locations. She ordered Crystal, Triton, Karnak, Gorgon and Lockjaw to accompany her in stealing the Skrulls' transport ship and traveling to the Skrulls' eternal enemies, the Kree. There, she promised their leader Ronan the Inhumans' allegiance in return for his aid in locating Black Bolt, cementing their alliance by betrothing her sister, Crystal, to Ronan (much to Crystal's surprise and dismay). Medusa led her family in rescuing her son and husband, but the vengeful Bolt contended that Medusa had overstepped her bounds in dealing with Ronan. In their absence, Maximus had led the defeat of the invading Skrull force, and rather than simply ally with the Kree, Bolt employed Maximus' genius to convert the city of Attilan into an interstellar warship and brought the Inhuman race into space. After annihilating many of the surviving Skrulls, Black Bolt humbled Ronan and claimed sole leadership of the Kree Empire himself. Medusa now stands as queen not just of the Inhumans, but of the Kree empire as well.

Art by Jim Mooney

HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 130 lbs.
EYES: Green
HAIR: Red

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Medusa can control the rate of growth and movement of each strand of her tougher-than-steel hair [illegible]; uncontrolled, her hair is naturally more than 6 feet long. She maintains control even when the hair has been cut from her head; it is believed her hair cannot be cut or broken without her allowing it. She can use her hair for a wide variety of effects, from brutal bludgeoning to fine lock picking; she has even meshed her hair into a parachute to allow her to survive long falls. She has used locks of her hair as whips, snapping the tip faster than the speed of sound. Properly braced, Medusa can lift over 1.6 tons using her hair.

Due to generations of eugenics, most Inhumans, including Medusa, are slightly superior to humans in strength, reaction time, stamina, resistance to injury, speed, and natural lifespan. Though most Inhumans have a biological vulnerability to human pollutants, Medusa lacks this weakness.

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Jump in.
XBOX 360

Art by Salvador Larroca

Ronan continued as Public Accuser, serving the Supreme Intelligence and later the various claimants for Kree leadership after an encounter with the Silver Surfer (Norrin Radd) left the SI mentally incapacitated. Under the orders of Supreme Leader Nenora (secretly replaced by Skrull agent K6@), Ronan confronted the Surfer over his destruction of several Kree worlds and military ships, not realizing at the time that the true culprit was a Skrull, Bartak, who was impersonating the Surfer to further the plans of one of the five main claimants to the Skrull throne. Ronan later confronted the real Silver Surfer over the planet Zenn-La (the Surfer's native world) to prove to the inhabitants that their protector couldn't defend them against the Kree's military might, but the Surfer defeated Ronan, and chased off the Kree armada with the aid of the Surfer's unwanted allies, the Skrull armada. Sometime after Nenora's true nature was exposed, a secretly recovered SI manipulated then-current Kree co-leaders Ael-Dann and Zar-Benn into renewing the Kree-Shi'ar conflict, dragging the Avengers into it as well. Ronan was unable to prevent the Shi'ar Deathbird from killing the joint leaders, though he did capture the Avengers who were present at the time. The SI sent Ronan and its superteam Starforce (Korath the Pursuer, Ultimus, Shatterax & Supremor) to Chandilar to kill Majestrix Lilandra in retaliation, but the combined efforts of her Imperial Guard and a second group of Avengers took them prisoner. When one of Lilandra's advisors was exposed as a Skrull agent, she set Ultimus free to inform the SI while keeping Ronan and the other Starforce members hostage. After the Shi'ar's Nega-Bomb destroyed the Kree Empire, a disaster secretly engineered by the SI as a means of jumpstarting long-stagnant Kree genetic evolution, the Shi'ar took over the Kree's territory and Starforce was conscripted as the new Viceroy of Deathbird's guards. Though he initially escaped, Ronan was soon recaptured, pretending to aid Shi'ar interests while plotting their downfall.

During a mission involving deported Kree criminals, Ronan captured the FF's Invisible Woman (Sue Richards) and forced her to help break into the Watcher Uatu's lunar home to steal the Universal Power Core of a Psyche-Magnetron unit; though the FF and Iron Man (Tony Stark) forced him to leave without the device, Ronan recorded the device's designs for later re-creation. After using the Inhumans in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Lilandra, Ronan became one of the first Kree to be evolved by the SI's use of the time-warping Forever Crystal into the adaptable "Ruul." Initially concealing their Kree identity, the Ruul convinced the Intergalactic Council to take action against Earth as a danger to galactic peace. The Council turned the planet into a penal institution under Ronan's control, not realizing until too late that Ronan was part of the SI's plot to use Ego the Living Planet to devour Earth and siphon its power into itself and all Kree within range. The plan was ultimately foiled when Quasar (Wendell Vaughn) absorbed Ego into himself, though the Ruul still managed to retake much of the Kree Empire's former territory in a series of simultaneous surprise attacks. Ronan once more became Supreme Public Accuser under the Supreme Intelligence's rule, transforming those Kree initially unaffected by the Forever Crystal into "Ruul."

A cadre of so-called Nu-Elite Kree, the House of Fiyero, subsequently took over rulership of the Kree Empire. To consolidate their power, one House member bribed Rigellian dissident Tana Nile into falsely accusing Ronan of colluding with Skrull Baron S'Bak to overthrow Fiyero House and allowing parts of the Kree Empire to be placed under S'Bak's control. Exiled from the Empire he had faithfully served, Ronan traced Nile to the backwater planet Godthab Omega, where he was reunited with his old friend Korath, also exiled from the Empire for aiding the Shi'ar years earlier. Ronan was secretly influenced by unhinged world-shaper Glorian into a battle with the super-assassin Gamora, so Glorian could use the energy from their battle to reshape the planet into a paradise to spite his former mentor, the Shaper of Worlds. Pushed to the seldom-reached upper limits of his powers, Ronan exulted in the combat until his urge to clear his name overcame his battle lust and he left the fight to find Glorian in the spaceport town Abyss. Ronan and Korath arrived just as Negative Zone ruler Annihilus' Annihilation Wave hit the planet. Ronan and Gamora joined forces to fight the invading alien insectoids and to confront Glorian, who was catatonic after the forced undoing of his "masterpiece" world. Finally confronting Nile on her deathbed, Ronan confirmed the Fiyeros' treachery but was unable to learn which Fiyero had bribed her before she died.

Ronan joined other cosmic-powered beings in the United Front alliance against Annihilus, becoming a trusted advisor of UF leader Nova (Richard Rider), only known survivor of the Xandarian Nova Corps. House Fiyero sent the Kree army to aid the UF, but unknown to the UF leadership, the Fiyeros had secretly lobotomized the Supreme Intelligence to secure their rule, and made a deal with Annihilus to not seriously oppose his army in return for trade arrangements in his new order. Representatives of the Fiyeros tried unsuccessfully to get Nova to hand Ronan over to their justice; they then tried to kill Ronan, who killed them instead. Distressed by the Kree's army deliberate lack of a battle plan and the inexplicable silence of the SI, Ronan tried to convince Nova to lend him some troops to overthrow House Fiyero, but they were interrupted by the arrival of Negative Zone robot Praxagora, who had brought the seemingly dead body of Super-Skrull (K'rt) with her to the front line. Shortly thereafter, the UF was attacked by Annihilus' head Seeker, Ravenous, and Annihilus' elite guard, the Centurions. Energies from a battle between Ronan, Ravenous and Galactus' former herald Firelord somehow revitalized Super-Skrull, who joined with the UF just long enough to help them escape Annihilus' newest super-weapon, which drew destructive energies from an imprisoned Galactus. With the United Front officially broken, Ronan grudgingly accepted Super-Skrull and Praxagora's aid in his quest to overthrow House Fiyero. On Hala, Ronan discovered the Fiyeros' deal with Annihilus, and once more faced Ravenous and the Centurions, with Ronan breaking his universal weapon on Ravenous' head before the Centurions teleported back to their ships. Ronan executed the Fiyero leaders before seeking out the SI. Learning that the SI's condition was irreversible, Ronan sadly granted it a mercy kill before formally taking the leadership of the Kree Empire, dealing a recovered Ravenous a crushing defeat by launching sections of Kree-Lar city filled with soldiers at Ravenous' fleet and using them to drive Ravenous from Hala's skies.

Art by Brad Walker

After Annihilus' death at the hands of Nova, Ronan reluctantly signed an armistice treaty with Ravenous, ceding much of the Kree Empire (including former capital planet Kree-Lar) to him in order to buy time to rebuild the depleted Kree ranks; however, when former UF ally Peter Quill (aka Star-Lord) rebuilt the Kree's warnet using Galadorian Spaceknight software, he unwittingly gave the techno-organic Phalanx the means to conquer the Kree Empire within hours. Led by Terran robot Ultron, the Phalanx sealed off Kree space by building a modified Babel Spire and phasing the Kree galaxy out of sync with the rest of the universe while they converted everyone within to low level Phalanx, with the "expendables" further processed into food, and a few joining their elite Select ranks. Outfitted with Phalanx converter technology, Ronan resisted assimilation even while obeying Phalanx orders to learn the secrets of a Nameless Kree whom he dubbed the Wraith (the former Zak-Del), whose alien parasitic swarm, the Exolon, could strike deadly fear into the Phalanx themselves. When a horrified Ronan learned the Phalanx intended to use the SI's corpse as a weapon to send a psychic order to the Kree to willingly assimilate with them, and that the Phalanx were willing to phase the Kree's galaxy to oblivion if the Kree continued to refuse, Ronan unhappily surrendered, becoming a Select. When Wraith instead used the SI's powers to augment his own Exolon fear powers to slay every Phalanx within range, Ronan found himself the only one spared. Humiliated by his surrender, Ronan tried to get Wraith to kill him, but Wraith told him that the Kree needed Ronan's leadership more than he needed to purge his humiliation by dying. Recovering, Ronan led a strike team made up of Wraith, Super-Skrull, Praxagora and resistance leader Ra-Venn to Kree-Lar, where he intended to activate a cache of 15,000 Kree Sentries hidden in an underground bunker to destroy Hala and free the Kree of Phalanx infection. Restraining Ravenous to keep him out of their way, Ronan had Wraith coat the Sentries with his Exolon parasites to keep them from being infected by the Phalanx, then had Praxagora put them under her direct control. Arriving on Hala, Ronan ordered the purge to continue despite the presence of Nova and several other cosmic-powered warriors fighting Ultron; however, Ultron took over Praxagora's body and used it to take over the Sentries before setting Praxagora to self-destruct and leaving. Surviving the resultant explosion via Super-Skrull's force fields, Ronan, Ra-Venn and Wraith were horrified to find Ultron had used the Sentries to create a gigantic body for himself. Seeing the cosmic warrior Adam Warlock empower Quasar (Phyla-Vell) to destroy Ultron, Ronan had Wraith use his Exolons to trap Ultron in his gigantic body to keep him from transferring his mind into anther host body when Quasar struck the killing blow.

After the Kree galaxy was re-synchronized with the rest of the universe, Ronan, once more the emperor, resumed the task of rebuilding the Empire. He allowed the outlawed ancient Priests of Pama religious order to openly operate in the Empire to help the needy with their medical and food supplies. He forged an alliance with Negative Zone ruler Blastaar to support his rule of that dimension and keep it from invading the positive universe anytime soon. Ronan had the Babel Spire rebuilt to use its shield to protect the weakened Empire from space-based enemies. He also rooted out Skrull agents sent to Hala to prevent the Kree from interfering with the Skrull invasion of Earth. Contacted by Inhuman Queen Medusa for aid in freeing her husband Black Bolt from the same group of Skrulls, Ronan agreed to a new alliance between their peoples, his price being that Medusa's sister Crystal would become his wife. Medusa agreed, and Ronan lent his resources to help locate Black Bolt. Once freed from his captivity, Black Bolt decided it was time for the Inhumans to take a more proactive role in the universe to protect themselves, starting with the Kree race, which created them thousands of years ago, and challenged Ronan for his throne. Seeing a chance for the Kree's genetic revival in the Inhumans' rule, Ronan allowed Black Bolt to take his throne in exchange for the Inhumans using their mutation-inducing Terrigen Mists to uplift the Kree once more and give his then-moribund race a new lease on life; however, during Ronan's wedding ceremony the Shi'ar Majestrator Vulcan (Gabriel Summers) ordered the Shi'ar Imperial Guard to slaughter the guests as a first step to conquering the Kree Empire. Seriously injured in the resultant battle, Ronan was forced to watch the war between Vulcan and Black Bolt from his hospital bed with his new wife Crystal keeping him updated on events, though news of the Uplift program's apparent failures may dampen his spirits.

HEIGHT: 7'5"
WEIGHT: 480 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Bald (formerly brown)

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: A virtually indestructible cyborg, Ronan has superhuman strength (lifting 10 tons without armor or roughly 60 tons with armor), though he seldom uses his strength in battle, preferring to use his universal weapon instead. Ronan can fire various beams from his eyes, including electromagnetic pulses and intensifier rays. As a "Ruul" Kree, Ronan can adapt his body to survive any hostile environment, though he has not shown that ability for some time. His armor can generate electrical shocks and cryogenically freeze a selected subject. Ronan's main weapon (roughly translated into English as "cosmi-rod" or universal weapon) can tap cosmic energy at the mental command of its wielder for various effects: Creating highly impenetrable "cones;" auras of negativism to render himself invisible to both sight and mechanical sensors, matter rearrangement and transmutation, creating wind vortexes, generating temporal displacement bubbles and hard vacuums, and discharging energy blasts, among other feats. If his cosmi-rod is somehow destroyed, he can instantaneously recreate it from components stored in his armor. The cosmi-rod can teleport its wielder through space, though its maximum jump distance is unknown. For a time it was used to funnel the energies that forcibly evolved the Kree; it is unknown if it still has access to those energies. As Supreme Public Accuser, Ronan wielded the Universal Weapon, a more powerful version of his current cosmi-rod. Ronan also carries several devices to aid his missions, such as the deadly alien parasitical "mannequin," and a device able to create localized "black hole" fields. He carries a blaster whose range is unknown. It is presumed he can somehow remove his armor to resume his original appearance.

POWER GRID 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

- INTELLIGENCE
- STRENGTH
- SPEED*
- DURABILITY
- ENERGY PROJECTION
- FIGHTING SKILLS

*RONAN IS A TELEPORTER

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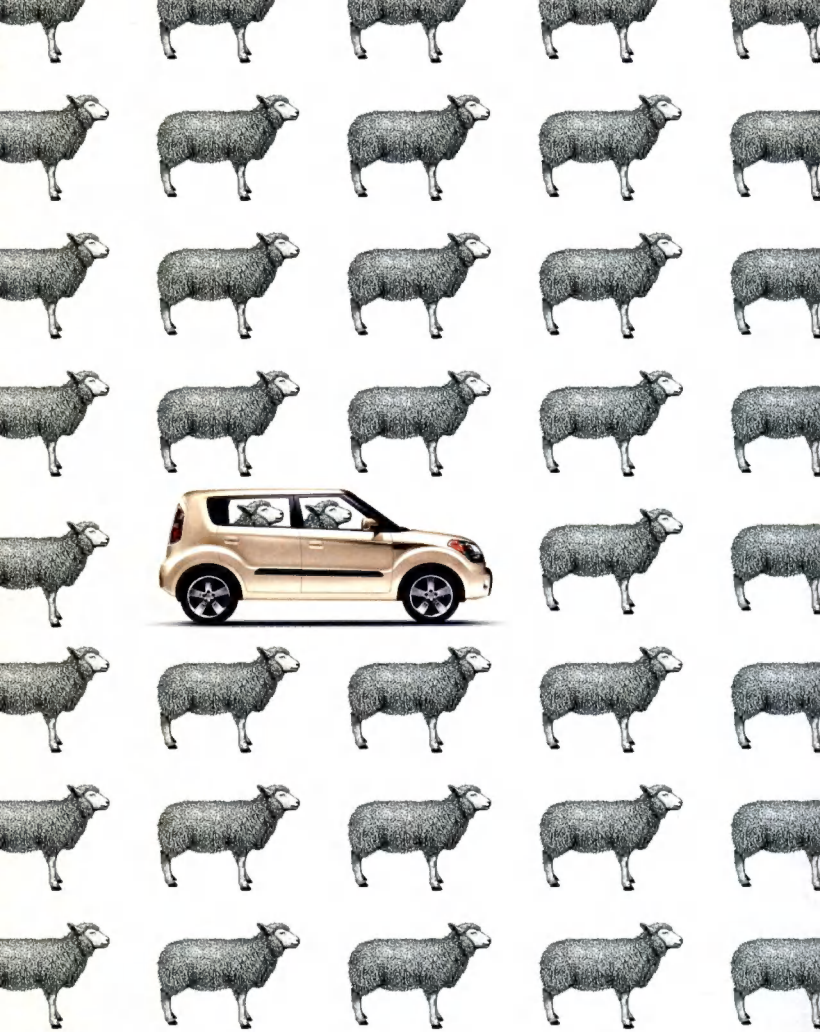

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